(b) if so, what are the details thereof, including the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(c) what action Government had taken against the officer concerned for the blatant violation of Supreme Court orders?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has informed that a four room building of 50 square meter plinth area was constructed near existing forest office building in Kamla Nehru Ridge (Northern Ridge) on the orders of the then Conservator of Forests, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi in 1998-99 Rupees 2.60 lakh were spent on the construction of building. The building has subsequently been removed.

(c) As per extant procedures, the matter has been referred to the Central Vigilance Commission.

Ecological crisis in Sabari Mala

2104. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report appearing in the Hindu dated the 27th December, 2001 on the alarmingly surpassed carrying capacity and the ecological, legal and managerial crisis on the site of the Sabari Mala Shrine, located in the Periyar Tiger Reserve;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(c) whether any further studies were initiated to resolve the issue at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of India has suggested the following actions:—

(i) Garbage to be cleared and use of non biodegradable material should be strictly prohibited.

(ii) Environment friendly facilities for pilgrims to be created in Nilakkal to minimise impact of pilgrims on Periyar Tiger Reserve.

(iii) Introduce shuttle transport service from Nilakkal to Pamba to regulate flow and avoid overcrowding of pilgrims.

(iv) Issue passes free of charge to keep count of people visiting Sannidanam, and regulate the number of pilgrims.

Endangered species of fish

2105. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study had been initiated before enlisting nine species of fish as endangered and imposing ban under the Wildlife Protection Act during December, 2001;

(b) the details of steps taken to identify the species, fishermen netted, before they were hauled on board;

(c) whether there is any project for alternate livelihood to local fishermen, before imposing this ban; and

(d) whether there is any scheme to solve the problems of fishermen of Lakshadweep Island, whose main livelihood is fishing, before enforcing the above ban?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The decision to include nine species of elasmobranchs in Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 was based on the threat assessment made by the IUCN (World Conservation Union).

(b) Experts in the field of fisheries are of the view that it is possible to prevent certain species from being netted by changing the design of the gears used by fishermen.

(c) and (d) The fishing data reveals that nine species constitute only a very small proprotion of total fish catch in the country and as such would not affect the livelihood of fishermen including those of Lakshadweep Islands.

Environment Hazard of Industrial Wastes

2106. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that industrial wastes of highly persistent nature are causing danger to life and environment;

(b) if so, the details of such industries in the country which have been notified by the authorities, State-wise; and